

Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve



Figure 20. Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve – 2002

Batiquitos Lagoon ER is located between the cities of Carlsbad and Encinitas, San Diego County. The entire lagoon spans approximately 600-acres; the Department property was acquired in 1978. A major restoration project, paid for with mitigation funds, occurred in the mid-1990s. Access is provided to the southern portion of the property off Highway 5 at the La Costa exit, and to the northern portion by using the Pointsettia exit. One of the largest California Least tern nesting sites in southern California is located on the property, and the Department, in conjunction with other wildlife agencies, participates in monitoring the sites during the nesting season. Current uses allowed by the Department include hiking and fishing in designated areas only. Dog walking is also allowed; however, dogs must be kept on leash at all times. Other sensitive species that inhabit the lagoon include elegant terns, black skimmers, Belding's Savannah sparrow, Western snowy plover, California brown pelican, yellow warbler and California gnatcatcher.

Batiquitos Lagoon General Avian Survey

In 2002, SCR biologists and environmental scientist staff conducted avian surveys at Batiquitos Lagoon, following a slightly modified protocol as established by Merkel & Associates, Inc., as part of the long-term biological monitoring program for the Batiquitos Lagoon Enhancement Project. Avian surveys are performed to document changes in bird community patterns following completion of the construction phase of the project.

Methods (following Merkel & Associates, Inc. 2001):

A general avian inventory of all portions of the lagoon was conducted in a systematic and simultaneous survey each quarter in 2002. The lagoon was divided into eight sampling zones (Figure 21) and surveyed on foot by five or six field biologists using binoculars and spotting scopes. The entire lagoon was covered on one day only each quarter which differs from the Merkel protocol in which sampling occurred on two consecutive days each quarter.

Data collected included species and individual counts, activities, and habitats in which the birds occurred (i.e. mudflat, shallow water, marsh, etc.). Additional data was collected on air temperature, wind, cloud cover, and precipitation. In 2002, survey dates were January 27, May 7, July 29, and October 29.

Results

A total of 116 species of birds (including 20 sensitive species and three exotic species) consisting of 38 families was observed at Batiquitos Lagoon during all survey dates in 2002 (Table 12). Data gathered from this project will be pooled with those collected by Merkel & Associates, Inc. during the course of the long-term monitoring program at Batiquitos Lagoon. Results will be presented in future SCR annual reports.

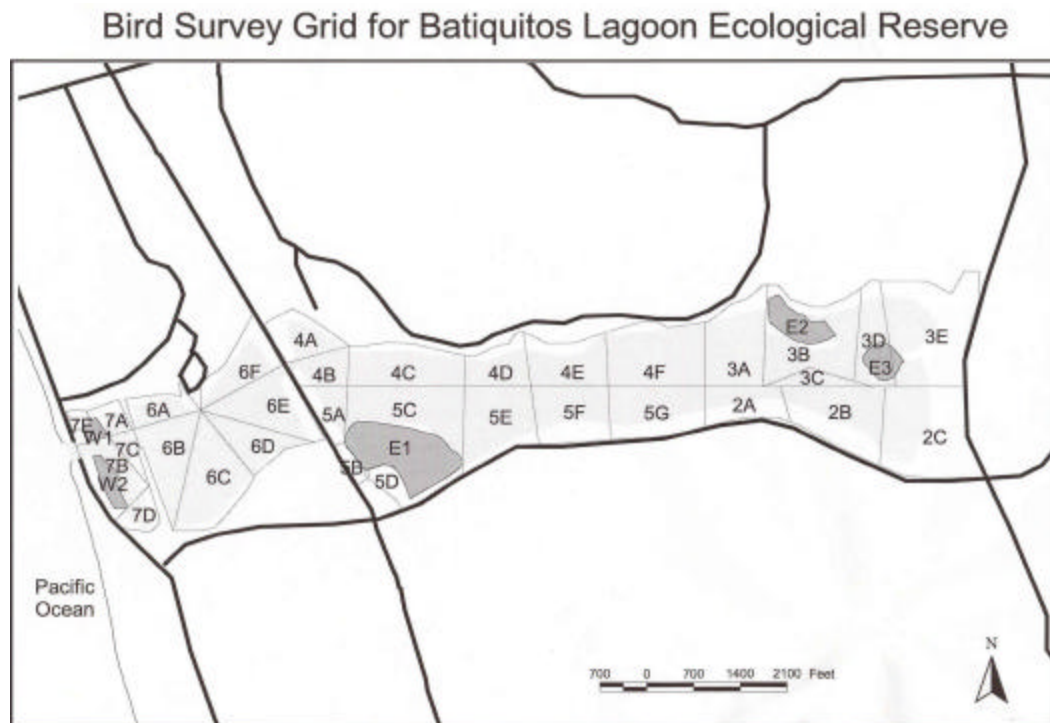


Figure 21. Bird Survey Grid for Batiquitos Lagoon ER

Reference: Merkel & Associates, Inc. 2001. Long-term Monitoring and Pilot Vegetation Program for the Batiquitos Lagoon Enhancement Project.

Table 12. Bird Species occurring in the Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve - 2002

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	
California Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	FE, SE, FP, MSCP
White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	SSC
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	SSC
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	
Green Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	SSC
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	FP
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	SSC, MSCP
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	
Light-footed Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i>	FE, SE, FP, MSCP
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
Pacific Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	
Western Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	FT, SSC, MSCP
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	

Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	
Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	MSCP
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	
Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus sp.</i>	
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	
Elegant Tern	<i>Sterna elegans</i>	SSC, MSCP
Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	SSC
California Least Tern	<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>	FE, SE, FP, MSCP
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>	
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops nigr</i>	SSC
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	I
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	
Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	SSC
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	
Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>	
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	
Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	
California Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	SSC
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	
Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	

Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
Western Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	
Common Bushtit	<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	SSC
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	
California Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila californica</i>	FT, SSC, MSCP
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	
Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SSC
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	I
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	SSC
Belding's Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi</i>	SE, MSCP
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	
California Towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	
Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	I

Status Codes : SE-State endangered; FE-Federal endangered; FT-Federal threatened; FP-State fully protected; SSC-California Species of Special Concern; MSCP-MSCP covered species; I-Introduced.

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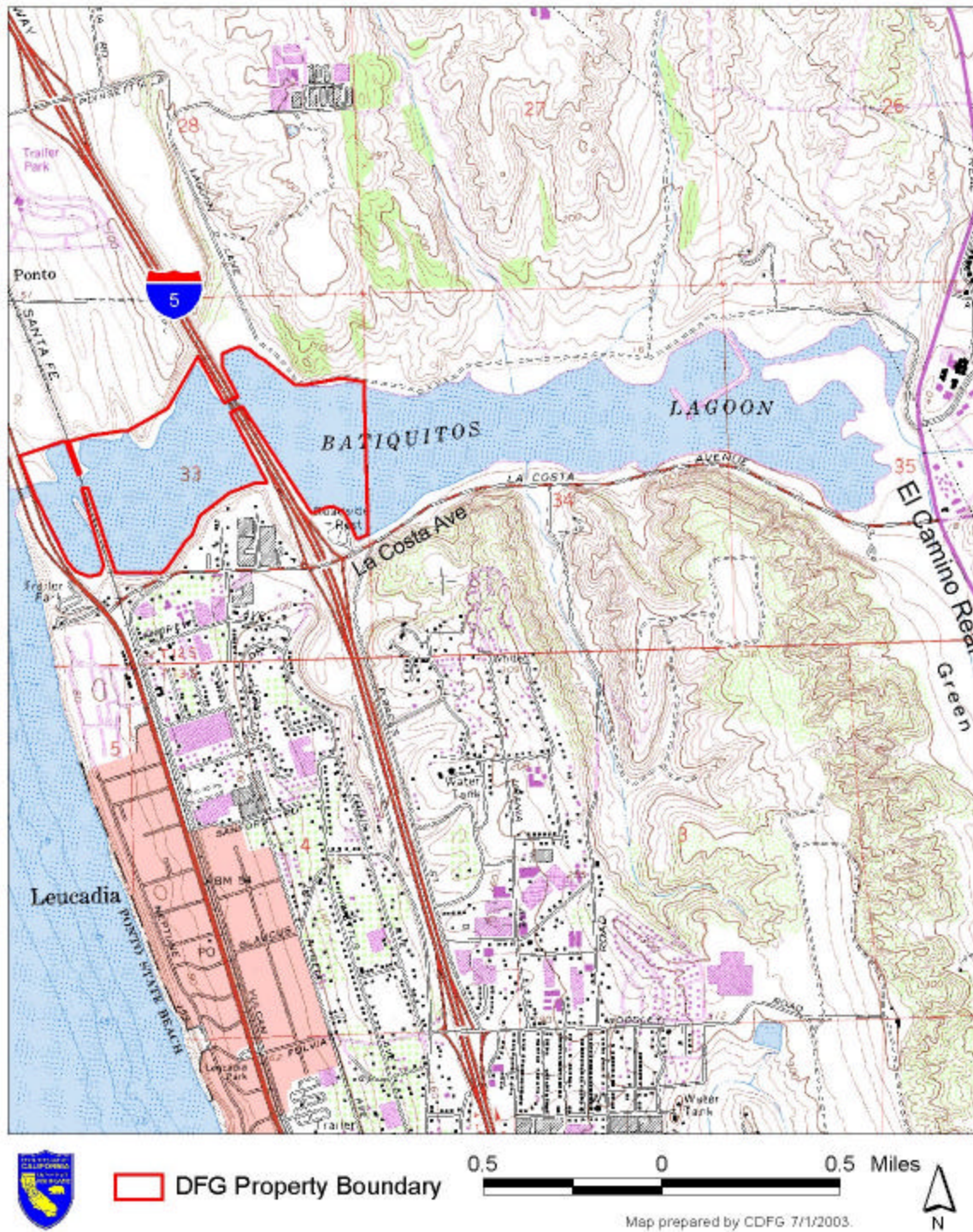


Figure 22. Map of Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve